

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 20-22 (the changes in these claims are shown with underlining for added matter).

No new matter has been added.

A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A stent tissue graft prosthesis comprising:

a first expandable stent having a first distal stent end and a first proximal stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough,

a tissue graft having the property of eversion upon placement in a blood vessel if not supported, the tissue graft having a distal tissue graft end and a proximal tissue graft end and disposed on said first stent, but not secured to said stent, and

a tubular member having a distal tubular member end and a proximal tubular member end, a wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough, said tubular member being disposed over said tissue graft and around said first stent and retaining said tissue graft disposed on said first stent solely by compressive forces, wherein the compressive forces are provided at least by an outward expansion of the first stent.

wherein, in a pre-implantation configuration, a most distal end of the first distal stent end is at least coincident with a most distal end of the distal tissue graft end and a most proximal end of the first proximal stent end is at least coincident with a most proximal end of the proximal tissue graft end and where during implantation and post-implantation of the prosthesis, the most distal tissue graft end and the most proximal tissue graft end remain substantially in the pre-implantation configuration such that the tissue graft does not evert or fold into the passage of the first expandable stent; and

wherein the distal and the proximal tubular member ends are substantially coincident with the respective distal and proximal first stent ends.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tissue graft includes at least one seamless tube of tissue.
4. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tissue graft includes a multilayered tissue construct.
5. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 4, wherein said multilayered tissue construct includes a sheet of tissue.
6. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tissue graft includes an extracellular matrix material.
7. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 6, wherein said tissue graft includes small intestine submucosa.
8. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 4, wherein said multilayered tissue construct includes a plurality of laminated tissue layers ranging from two to six layers.
9. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said first expandable stent is a self-expanding, a balloon expandable stent or a combination self-expanding and balloon expandable stent.
10. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said first expandable stent has a plurality of circumferential segments and a plurality of tie bars longitudinally interconnecting said plurality of circumferential segments.

11. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a second expandable stent that is self-expanding, balloon expandable or a combination of both.

12. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein each of said first and said second stents has an inside diameter and an outside diameter and wherein said first stent in a relaxed condition has an outside diameter less than an inside diameter of said second stent in a relaxed condition.

13. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a perforated polymer material.

14. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is disposed completely over said tissue graft.

15. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein at least one end of said first stent extends beyond at least one end of said tissue graft.

16. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10, wherein selected of said circumferential segments includes a serpentine or zigzag pattern of straight struts interconnected by a plurality of bends.

17. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein said first stent in a relaxed condition has an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of said second stent in a relaxed condition.

18. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein said first and said second stents in a relaxed condition have equivalent inside and outside diameters.

19. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 4, wherein said multilayered tissue construct includes a plurality of seamless tubes of juvenile porcine small intestine submucosa tissue and at least one sheet of mature porcine small intestine submucosa tissue.

20. (Currently amended) A stent tissue graft prosthesis comprising:

a first expandable stent having a first distal stent end and a first proximal stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough,

a multilayered tissue graft construct having the property of eversion upon placement in a blood vessel if not supported, the multilayered tissue graft construct having a distal construct end and a proximal construct end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough and disposed on said first stent, and

a second expandable stent having a distal second expandable stent end and a proximal second expandable stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough, said second stent being disposed over and around said construct and said first stent, and retaining said construct disposed on said first stent solely by compressive forces, wherein the compressive forces are provided at least by an outward expansion of the first stent.

wherein, in a pre-implantation configuration, a most distal end of the first distal stent end is at least coincident with a most distal end of the distal construct end and a most proximal end of the first proximal stent end is at least coincident with a most proximal end of the proximal construct end and where during implantation and post-implantation of the prosthesis, the most distal construct end and the most proximal construct end remain substantially in the pre-implantation configuration such that the construct does not evert or fold into the passage of the first expandable stent, and

wherein the distal and the proximal second expandable stent ends are substantially coincident with the respective distal and proximal first stent ends.

21. (Currently amended) A stent tissue graft prosthesis comprising:

a first expandable stent having a first distal stent end and a first proximal stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough,

a tissue graft having the property of eversion upon placement in a blood vessel if not supported, the tissue graft having a distal tissue graft end and a proximal tissue graft end and disposed on said first stent, and

a tubular member having a distal tubular member end and a proximal tubular member end, a wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough, said tubular member being disposed over said tissue graft and around said first stent and retaining said tissue graft disposed on said first stent solely by compressive forces, wherein the compressive forces are provided at least by an outward expansion of the first stent.

wherein, in a pre-implantation configuration, a most distal end of the first distal stent end extends beyond a most distal end of the distal tissue graft end and a most proximal end of the first proximal stent end extends beyond a most proximal end of the proximal tissue graft end and where during implantation and post-implantation of the prosthesis, the most distal tissue graft end and the most proximal tissue graft end remain substantially in the pre-implantation configuration such that the tissue graft does not evert or fold into the passage of the first expandable stent, and

wherein the distal and the proximal second expandable stent ends are substantially coincident with the respective distal and proximal first stent ends.

22. (Currently amended) A stent tissue graft prosthesis comprising:

a first expandable stent having a first distal stent end and a first proximal stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough,

a multilayered tissue graft construct having the property of eversion upon placement in a blood vessel if not supported, the multilayered tissue graft construct having a distal construct end and a proximal construct end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough and disposed on said first stent, and

a second expandable stent having a distal second expandable stent end and a proximal second expandable stent end, a tubular wall and a passage extending longitudinally therethrough, said second stent being disposed over and around said construct and said first stent, and retaining said construct disposed on said first stent solely by compressive forces, wherein the compressive forces are provided at least by an outward expansion of the first stent.

wherein, in a pre-implantation configuration, a most distal end of the first distal stent end extends beyond a most distal end of the distal construct end and a most proximal end of the first proximal stent end extends beyond a most proximal end of the proximal construct end and where during implantation and post-implantation of the prosthesis, the most distal construct end and the most proximal construct end remain substantially in the pre-implantation configuration such that the construct does not evert or fold into the passage of the first expandable stent, and

wherein the distal and the proximal second expandable stent ends are substantially coincident with the respective distal and proximal first stent ends.